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Ministère de la Justice
Canada

FOR INFORMATION

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SOMMAIRE EXÉCUTIF/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Department of Justice Canada recently completed evaluations of its Youth Justice Initiative, Justice Federal Victims Strategy, Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio, and Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio.
- The evaluation reports and their management response and action plans have been approved by the Deputy Minister and are scheduled to be posted on the Department of Justice website on July 8, 2016.
- The Treasury Board *Policy on Evaluation* requires that evaluation reports be made publicly available on the Internet in a timely manner after they have received departmental approval.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTER

Publication of Evaluation Reports

ISSUE

The Department of Justice recently completed evaluations of the Youth Justice Initiative, Justice Federal Victims Strategy, Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio, and Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio. The evaluation reports, attached at Annex 1, 3, 5 and 7, and management responses and action plans are attached at Annexes 2, 4, 6 and 8. The reports and responses have been approved by the Deputy Minister and are scheduled to be posted on the website of the Department of Justice on July 8, 2016.

BACKGROUND

The Treasury Board *Policy on Evaluation* requires that departments evaluate all of their programs, policy functions and services on a five-year cycle. The Policy also requires that evaluation reports, along with their management responses and action plans, be made publicly available on the Internet in a timely manner (within 120 days) after they are approved by the Deputy Minister. Management responses and action plans describe how the responsibility centres will implement the various evaluation reports' recommendations, and provide timelines for implementation.

Evaluation of the Youth Justice Initiative

The Youth Justice Initiative is the federal government's primary contribution to the continued implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The evaluation found that the Initiative remained relevant and that it has been aligned with Government priorities and federal roles and responsibilities during the timeframe of the evaluation. The evaluation found that the Initiative has contributed substantially to the availability of new programs and services that are viewed as effective in improving the youth justice response.

The evaluation makes two recommendations: one regarding the examination of the factors influencing the use of pre-trial detention, and one with respect to data to support the evaluation of the Initiatives outcomes.

Evaluation of the Justice Federal Victims Strategy

The objective of the Justice Federal Victims Strategy is to give victims of crime a more effective voice in the criminal justice system. The evaluation found that the Strategy is relevant and that it was successful in achieving its objectives and expected outcomes. The evaluation also found that the four functional areas of the Department involved in the Strategy are well integrated and

coordinated, and that the Victims Fund, which represents approximately two-thirds of the Strategy's resources, is operationally efficient.

The evaluation includes six recommendations relating to: the issue of variability of access to services across Canada; coordination, collaboration, and sharing of information through the federal-provincial-territorial working group; the prioritization of the Policy Centre for Victims Issues activities, based on available resources; increased efficiency of the Victims Fund review process; the reduction of lapsing of funds for multiyear agreements; and performance indicators and data collection mechanisms.

Evaluation of the Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio

The focus of the Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio (BRLP) Evaluation is on the legal advisory and litigation services provided by the Portfolio through fourteen departmental legal services units and the regional offices, as well as the functional coordination of commercial law across Canada. The evaluation found that the BRLP is highly relevant and that it delivers high-quality legal services that are timely, responsive and useful.

The evaluation contains three recommendations regarding: the provision of regular and informative progress reports, the application of project management principles to clarify the tasks and responsibilities of each team member, and the monitoring of the impact of the new paralegal pool to ensure that departmental legal services unit counsel have sufficient access to needed paralegal support.

Evaluation of the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio

The Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio (AAP) provides legal services and legal policy advice in relation to Aboriginal peoples, and legal services on northern development issues within the mandate of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The evaluation found that the legal services offered by the AAP are highly relevant, address increasingly complex federal issues concerning Aboriginal peoples and continue to result in major developments in Aboriginal law and legal policy. Evaluation results indicate the Portfolio has effectively addressed Aboriginal law and legal policy issues and clients are satisfied with the rate of settlement that has been achieved. The AAP underwent organizational changes and successfully implemented measures to enhance efficiency during the evaluation period.

The evaluation contains three recommendations regarding: the clarification of roles and responsibilities of the Aboriginal Law Centre, the INAC Legal Services Unit and the regional counsel involved in litigation support and management; the examination of the tools and resources available to AAP counsel; and the examination of the training needs of AAP counsel.

CONSIDERATIONS

The evaluations and their management responses and action plans were presented and approved at the Departmental Evaluation Committee on March 15, 2016. As required under the Treasury Board Policy, the documents have been submitted to the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.

The evaluation reports have been reviewed by the Department's Office of Access to Information and Privacy to confirm that they do not contain inappropriate disclosures. The Communications Branch is currently reviewing the reports to determine if proactive media lines are required prior to publication.

CONCLUSION

The evaluation reports and their management responses and action plans are scheduled to be posted on the Department of Justice website on July 8, 2016.

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Evaluation of the Youth Justice Initiative
- Annex 2: Management Response and Action Plan – Youth Justice Initiative
- Annex 3: Evaluation of the Justice Federal Victims Strategy
- Annex 4: Management Response and Action Plan – Justice Federal Victims Strategy
- Annex 5: Evaluation of the Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio
- Annex 6: Management Response and Action Plan – Business and Regulatory Law Portfolio
- Annex 7: Evaluation of the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio
- Annex 8: Management Response and Action Plan – Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio

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